ation from the medical school. He had, besides, another great inducement in the Californian climate; for Elizabeth, his wife, had never been strong and in recent months had been in very fragile health. When Elisha Stevens organized his party in 1844, the section of it which was bound for California contained the bright new wagons and equipment of John Townsend, his wife and his brother-in-law, Moses Schallenberger, a boy of seventeen.

STEVENS-MURPHY PARTY

The Stevens party has often been called the Murphy party or the Stevens-Murphy party, although it was actually organized by, and was under the orders of Elisha Stevens. The reason for this constant confusion lies in the fact that there was a very large number of persons named Murphy in the train. It was made up of sections for California and Oregon. The sections traveled as one train as far as Fort Hall, where approximately half the party turned off on the Oregon route, while the California group, which contained eleven wagons, twenty-six men, eight women and a dozen children, continued down the Mary River (now the Humboldt) until they reached its sink.

The Stevens party was the second wagon train to start the trip across the prairies in 1844, and its path was badly marked and long. Traffic had not yet worn wheel marks in the earth of the plains, and an occasional scout or trapper was all that could be counted on for guidance after civilization was left behind. By the time the California wagons reached the Humboldt's sink, though the season was growing late, they were forced to stop and spend ten days to give the oxen strength to carry them over the last, but most taxing weeks of the journey.

The party left the Humboldt behind early in November, and looked ahead to see the formidable Sierra purple and frowning in the distance. Their passage to the base of the mountains was a long agony, for the hoofs of the oxen grew soft and sore from wading in the icy streams, and the grass was poor and thin in the late season.

THE TRUCKEE COUNTRY

Late in November they crossed the Truckee and the Bear rivers, under the guidance of an Indian whom they named Truckee and for whom they named the river and lake. They were, it appears, the first emigrant party to take this route, now the route of the railroad. At the forks of the Truckee, Mrs. Townsend, Ellen Murphy, John and Daniel Murphy, and a man named Magnent left the party and swung downstream to Lake Tahoe, through to St. Clair's rancho and so to Sutter's Fort. They arrived safely with all their horses, though they had a hard and hungry journey.

The rest of the party went on to Truckee Lake at the very foot of the pass in the Sierra. This lake, sparkling in the late autumn sun, was within a short time to become a place of tragedy and ill omen, for two years later it earned its share of the greatest debacle in the history of the emigration, taking the name by which it is known today, Donner Lake.

At the western end of the lake, under the shadow of the terrible perpendicular pass, the party drew a long but apprehensive breath. While they had rested at the Humboldt, snow had begun to fall in the mountains; and though they made their best time, they had been compelled to spend a long month of desperate haste and agony to reach the spot in which they were now camped. As they looked up at the forbidding silent pass, powdered with the first light snow, they confirmed the unspoken apprehension that it was too late for a concerted crossing of the mountains.

SIERRA HARDSHIPS

It is difficult for the modern eye, especially an eye unaccustomed to the frozen dangers of the Sierra, to picture the happenings of the next few weeks. It is hard to appreciate that the trip, for which three hours is now considered a long time, consumed weeks of heart-breaking and terrifying struggle. Few realize that the disaster of the crossing was not in its first upward climb from the east, sheer and terrible though it was, but in the endless miles of descent into the valley. This was the Via Dolorosa of the emigrants, who dallied too long and were caught in the mountains after winter had begun.

There was no time to be lost. Snow had begun to pile in small drifts around the camp, and the clouds gathered spitefully and ominously even as they talked. Without snow to hamper them, the animals, though in poor condition, might drag the wagons over the pass, but if the snow began to fall no man could help them over the boulders nor keep them on the surface of the soft deep snow on the plateau beyond.

(To be continued)

CLINICAL NOTES AND CASE REPORTS

HERPES ZOSTER AND VARICELLA IN PATIENT WITH CARCINOMA OF PLEURA AND LUNG*

By HARRY E. ALDERSON, M. D.
AND
PHILIP H. PIERSON, M. D.
San Francisco

THE subject of this report had been in the hospital for six months, with only occasional outside exposures. She developed herpes zoster, followed in nine days by typical varicella.

The possible close relationship of the virus of herpes zoster and that of varicella is indicated by the increasing number of similar case reports published the past few years.

REPORT OF CASE

CASE 1.—Miss A. E. (history No. 38859), aged 49, had an amputation of the left breast for carcinoma at Johns

* From the Clinics of Dermatology and Chest Diseases, respectively, Stanford University Medical School.

Fig. 1.—Varicella, accompanying severe herpes zoster in a case of carcinoma of lung and pleura.

Hopkins, by Doctor Kelly, in 1929. In 1938, carcinoma of the pleura and lung developed. At that time the patient was hospitalized under Doctor Pierson's care, receiving deep roentgen therapy by Dr. Eric Liljencrantz of Stanford University during August, 1938. After a long period of digestive disturbances, in September and October she began to improve, so that by February 8, 1939, she was able to eat well and take rather long walks without discomfort. On February 6, 1939, however, she developed severe herpes zoster in the distribution of the left ninth dorsal segment. The vesicles were almost hemorrhagic and confluent over an area from 5 to 10 centimeters wide. The pain was very severe.

On the ninth day of the herpes zoster typical *varicella* developed with widely scattered lesions, which appeared spread over the body, on the *scalp*, and *inside the mouth*. They developed in the usual manner, and in about two weeks had practically subsided.

The chest involvement in this case will be discussed in detail later in a special paper by Doctor Pierson.

490 Post Street.

TOOTHPICK IN THE SUBMAXILLARY DUCT AND GLAND

By H. P. MERRILL, M. D.
Los Angeles

THIS patient, a healthy middle-aged male, was admitted to the Veterans' Administration Hospital, complaining of a discharging fistula on the left side of his neck. He stated that it had been present since the incision of an "abscess" several months before. This "abscess" had developed suddenly without any acute infection in the mouth or throat. Incision had relieved the immediate symptoms and the wound had closed in a few days, only to have the swelling recur, so that reincision had been necessary. This process had been repeated several times.

REPORT OF CASE

Examination showed a small fistula leading into the lower part of the submaxillary gland and discharging a small amount of purulent saliva. A probe passed well into the gland, but did not touch any hard substance. The gland was only slightly larger than normal. Within the mouth the distal part of the duct appeared normal, but back near the gland a tender mass was felt. After considerable search the orifice of the duct was located and a fine probe passed along the duct until a foreign body, assumed to be a stone, was located. The mouth and throat were clean. All teeth had been extracted for several years.

After two attempts by the resident to remove this foreign body intraorally had failed, I removed the gland and most of the duct. Prompt healing followed.

In the proximal part of the duct, and extending into the gland, was a piece of common wooden toothpick about three centimeters long. There was no calculus and no evidence of calcareous deposit on the toothpick. The gland showed practically no damage from infection, and would probably have returned to normal if the toothpick had been removed intraorally.

COMMENT

Strange foreign bodies have been reported in the salivary glands and ducts. Most of them seem to have been seeds or stems of plants or splinters. Many of them have been, like this one, so large that it seems impossible for them to enter a tiny opening that requires careful search to locate and enter with a fine probe.

The part foreign bodies play in the formation of calculi seems to me to be uncertain. I have not been able to demonstrate a definite foreign body nucleus in around forty calculi. Certainly, the dogmatic statement that all such calculi have a foreign body nucleus is not justified. This, as well as the statement about their rarity, has apparently been unquestioned since the condition was first described. Like bladder-stones they may or may not have a nucleus, and they are rare only because they are seldom looked for. Bimanual palpation of the gland and duct areas frequently shows up a more or less sensitive mass which probing or x-ray proves to be around a stone, in patients who have had no symptoms at all. Palpation and probing are of more value in diagnosis than the x-ray, as some stones and most vegetable matter do not show on the film.

All foreign bodies in the duct, and most of them in the gland, can be removed through the mouth. When an abscess or much acute inflammation is present, these should be treated before removal is attempted. Incision of the abscess is often followed by the appearance of the stone in the incision. Excision of the gland should be reserved for cases where the gland has been badly damaged by infection, recurrent stones, external incisions, or when malignancy is suspected.

458 South Spring Street.

Acidified Candy May Be Tooth Menace.—If acidified candy is frequently allowed to dissolve against the teeth, serious softening of the enamel may result, experiments summarized in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* suggest.

In the experiments of Edward S. West and Frederick R. Judy, freshly extracted teeth were mounted singly in rubber stoppers by embedding the roots in beeswax followed by a coat of acid-proof paint. Only sound enamel was exposed. The teeth were then exposed to solutions of varied strength of acidified candies in water, these solutions showing high acid reactions.

Although the action of the saliva in the mouth, where it is being continually secreted, is undoubtedly more efficient in combating the effects of acidified candies than in the experiments reported, the teeth treated in the experiments under conditions that led to dissolving of tooth enamel showed a chalky insoluble layer on the surface which could be easily scraped off.

The investigators are of the opinion that the dissolving of the calcium and phosphorus of the teeth by the acid in various foods may be an important factor in the general process of tooth destruction.